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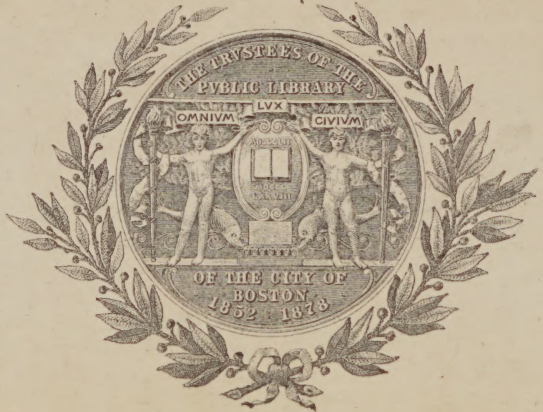

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SOME

SUGGESTIONS

REGARDING

THE SABBATH SCHOOL

OF

7539.14

UNION CHURCH.

BOSTON:

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1862.

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collections weekly, others monthly, and others again yearly, and though strenuous efforts have been made to change this course, little success has been achieved. By this discursive course regarding the collections, no reports could be made monthly or quarterly, and thus the stimulus which frequent reports would have given, was lost. A subscription of one cent each sabbath, from each member of the school, would produce annually a larger sum than has for many years been realized from the collections in the classes.

There seems to be, at the present time, a deeper and more wide-spread interest in our Sabbath School than has for some time prevailed, and perhaps an effort to introduce a system, from which shall result greater concert of action in the management of its charities, may be successful.

It is believed that the organization of a Missionary Society, in the management of which, by a Board of Officers, selected from their teachers, the scholars should have a direct interest; for the support of which by regular contributions they should mainly be responsible; and in which, by means of frequent reports their interest should be kept alive, great good could be accomplished.

Perhaps the scheme of such a Society, as it exists in the writer's mind, can best be shown by the statement here of some simple rules which should govern it. These, after consideration by a committee, might be submitted to the school somewhat as follows: —

PREAMBLE.

Believing as we do in the importance of active, aggressive, missionary effort; that in the sustenance of such effort the young, as well as those of mature years, should contribute of their means as the Lord prospers them; and that more good may be accomplished by united effort, with a steady purpose in view, we, the Teachers and Scholars of the Sabbath School connected with Union Church, do hereby form ourselves into a Missionary Association, and agree to be governed by the following

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. This Association shall be called THE SABBATH SCHOOL MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF UNION CHURCH.

ART. II. Any member of the Sabbath School, who shall be a regular contributor to the funds, shall be a member of the Association; and any person may be made an honorary member by the payment of three dollars at one time. The funds of the Society are pledged for the promotion and maintainance of missionary efforts.

ART. III. The affairs and funds of this Association shall be under the direction and control of a Board of Managers, consisting of a President, Secretary, Treas-

urer, and six Managers, three male and three female, all of whom shall be chosen annually, from the teachers of the Sabbath School, at the anniversary meeting.

If from any cause an election shall not take place, the last officers shall hold office until their successors are chosen.

Art. IV. The President shall perform the duties appropriate to his office; shall make arrangements for all meetings of the Association and Board of Managers; and shall call meetings of the Board at his option or at the request of two of the managers. The President shall conduct the correspondence, and prepare and present the annual report of the managers at each anniversary. In case of his absence, the Board of Managers shall choose one of their number to preside.

Art. V. The Secretary shall keep a record of the transactions of the Association, and of the Board of Managers.

Art. VI. The Treasurer shall receive and take charge of all funds belonging to the Association; pay all appropriations authorized by the Board of Managers; and present a report of the same at each anniversary, or oftener should the Board so direct.

Art. VII. The Board of Managers shall have power to form its own rules of business; fill any vacancies which may occur in its body during the year; determine the objects to be aided by the Association; make all appropriations, and adopt such

measures as shall best advance the interests of the Association. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

Art. VIII. The teachers in the Sabbath School shall act as treasurers of their respective classes; shall take collections in aid of the Association each Sabbath; and pay moneys so collected, to the Treasurer of the Association, on the first Sabbath of each month.

Art. IX. The Association shall observe the Sabbath School Monthly Concert, on the third Sabbath evening of each month, unless the managers otherwise direct. The anniversary of the Association shall be held in the month of January, when the reports of the Board of Managers and the Treasurer shall be read.

Art. X. No alterations shall be made in this Constitution, except by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any meeting of the Association, nor then, unless such alterations shall have been previously approved by the Board of Managers.

In presenting this simple outline, the writer would not claim for it perfection, for he is aware that it may be greatly improved. Neither is originality claimed. This form is merely an attempt to adapt for our use, means made use of elsewhere, to obtain greater success in this and in other fields of Christian effort.

If a system resembling the foregoing outline in any degree, should be adopted, the writer would strongly

recommend the adoption in the school, of the Eclectic Class Book, compiled by Dr. Roedel, of Lebanon, Penn., some copies of which have been placed with the Superintendent, and which seems to be by far the most clear and at the same time the most comprehensive class-book hitherto offered to those engaged in sabbath schools.

In the third article of the Constitution, where mention is made of the selection of the officers from the teachers of the school, it will be understood of course that the Superintendent is, in every sense, one of the teachers of the school. Indeed the scheme would not be perfect were not the Superintendent of the school, the President of the Society. Then he, examining the Treasurer's accounts, sees from whence and how much are the monthly receipts; conducting the correspondence he is always aware what material he has relative to the Society's doings for the next Sabbath School Concert; and by an examination of the teachers' class-books he can fully inform himself of the conduct, lessons, and contributions of each individual scholar.

Should these suggestions result in increasing and developing a greater love for, and interest in, missionary effort in our Sabbath School, the object aimed at by the writer will have been gained, his prayer being that the members of the school "may abound to every good work."

Boston, April, 1862.